

**LONG**

**LIVE**



**Free the Eleven!**

**Free All Puerto Rican Prisoners of War!**

**Support the Armed Struggle!**

**No to Statehood-Free Puerto Rico!**

**— BULLETIN —**

New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence  
Box 295 2520 N Lincoln Chicago IL

50¢



# Fighters Against Colonialism

"POLICE CAPTURE ELEVEN FALN  
TERRORIST SUSPECTS"

This headline emblazoned the front page of papers in Chicago and across the U.S. in April. Coverage of the arrests and court proceedings of suspected members of the clandestine Puerto Rican independence organization, Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional, has depicted the five women and six men as not only terrorists, but also maniacs and mafia-like 'god-mothers.' But the fact is that FALN soldiers rationally and determinedly work within a scientific strategy for regaining their nation's violated sovereignty and their people's self-determination. Their strategy can only be judged within the context of the history and the ideological climate of the last century of colonialism in Puerto Rico. The media, to whom we often look for clarification of world events, withhold most of the story of Puerto Rico from us. To view the Eleven as lunatics and terrorists is to settle for a biased portrayal of the facts and to ignore the consequences of the continuing U.S. presence in Puerto Rico.

The Eleven have taken a stance as freedom fighters that they are prisoners of war, not subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S.. This is based on the reality of U.S. control of Puerto Rico. The POW stance is a direct challenge to the efforts of the state and the media to portray them as crazed criminals. Why must the Eleven be supported as Prisoners of War? What is the war about? In this overview and in the BULLETIN, we want to build understanding and support for the decisive nature of the P.O.W. stance, and for the cause of Puerto Rican independence to which the Eleven dedicate their lives.

July 1898, the U.S. invaded the islands of Puerto Rico, and although the people valiantly re-

sisted, they were overwhelmed by superior U.S. military force. The U.S. illegally claimed Puerto Rico as war booty from Spain. Since that invasion, the Puerto Rican people have been at war with the U.S. in a continual effort to expel the intervening nation and regain independence. Armed force has always been a necessary and legitimate part of that struggle.

In 1930 a young lawyer, Pedro Albizu Campos, became president of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, saying: "Nationalism is the nation organized to recover its sovereignty." The Nationalists led the Puerto Ricans' militant resistance to US colonialism and to the harsh impact of the US Depression on Puerto Rico. In 1935, in an attempt to assassinate Albizu, US-led police gunned down four Nationalists at a rally in Rio Piedras. In retaliation, two party members executed the US Chief of Police on the island. These two martyrs were murdered in the police station immediately after their arrest.

Resistance continued and in the late 1940's, the Puerto Rican legislature, which was and is totally subordinate to the US government, passed a law which made it illegal to advocate independence. The Nationalists intelligence network uncovered a new US plot to kill Party leaders. In Oct. 1950, police headquarters in Jayuya were seized by Nationalists, and the Second Republic of Puerto Rico proclaimed. A general insurrection began across Puerto Rico. The US Air Force dropped bombs on the city and US tanks patrolled the streets. Two Nationalists, Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola, brought this struggle to the US by attacking Commander-in-Chief Harry Truman in Washington DC. But the rebellion was put down.

Following an attempt by the US to divide and silence the courageous cry for independence, the



US won a close vote in the United Nations removing Puerto Rico from the list of colonial possessions, in 1954. Again bringing the struggle to the colonizer's heartland, four Puerto Rican Nationalists attacked the House of Representatives; unfurling the Puerto Rican flag, they demanded independence for their country arms in hand. In the words of Irvin Flores, one of the Four; "It is bad enough when someone oppresses, enslaves, and exploits you; but when they say you are satisfied with it, that is like adding insult to injury." The imprisoned Nationalists remained in US jails over a quarter century, refusing to accept any conditions for release which would violate their nation's sovereignty. Released last year, they continue to assert that they are not sorry for their actions.

Throughout the 60's and 70's, in response to continuing repression and economic hardship caused by the US, there were not only mass militant uprisings, but also the development of organized military formations within the independence movement.



Thousands of young Puerto Ricans refused induction into the US armed forces and fought against ROTC, and the people living on islands occupied by the US Navy, like Culebra, demonstrated against the shelling and maneuvers. Independent, militant Puerto Rican unions were formed. Groups such as the CAL (Comandos Armados de Liberacion) and MIRA (Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria en Armas) engaged in military actions like bombing US businesses that exploited Puerto Rican workers and gross

hotels in San Juan which catered to the US tourist trade.

But the independence movement suffered setbacks because of a separation of, and flaws in, both armed and mass forms of struggle. CAL and MIRA acted from an insurrectionary or 'foco' type of strategy, carrying out armed actions in support of a mass movement and public independence organizations, while those public struggles might remain limited to reforms, caught up in the US-sponsored elections which did not fundamentally challenge US domination. Forces within the independence movement identified the weakness of these approaches, and pushed forward a strategy that could obtain independence by uniting all the necessary forms of revolutionary struggle of the Puerto Rican people into an effort to overturn colonialism through a protracted people's war for independence.

In the mid-1970's, the FALN formed to work within such a political military strategy for the independence of Puerto Rico, and its activity has advanced that strategy. The organization's expressed intent has been to operate within the metropolitan areas of the enemy colonial power, where millions of Puerto Ricans reside, facing conditions of colonial violence, exploitation and poverty.

Subsequently a number of other clandestine groups were formed in Puerto Rico. Colonial police and FBI estimate more than 25 such commando groups operating.

The targets of the FALN have not been haphazard, unconnected, or irrelevant. Their most recent action was directed at the Carter Headquarters in Chicago and Bush HQ in New York. Both these presidential candidates are members of an organization of international businessmen who play an important role in determining world affairs--the Trilateral Commission. Through their party presidential primaries in Puerto Rico the Democrat and Republican Parties have tried to carry out the de facto annexation of Puerto Rico into the US body politic. The military action of the FALN



denounced the primaries as revealing US intentions to solidify its control and further violate the Puerto Rican people's human right to self-determination and independence by making Puerto Rico into a state.

Today, the realities in Puerto Rico and among Puerto Ricans in the US continue to fuel the independence movement. The US controls 85% of industry. There is 40% unemployment. On the island of Vieques, the fishing industry - mainstay of the people's livelihood -- has been destroyed by the US Navy occupation and bombing. Puerto Rico is a captive market for US goods. Thirty percent of all the oil used in the eastern US is refined in Puerto Rico without environmental standards. The US intends to turn the island into a series of industrial parks by the year 2020. US Navy MP's arrested demonstrators who were protesting bombardment of Vieques. When one of the Vieques resisters, Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, took a stance as a prisoner of war, refusing to recognize the US courts, he was murdered while in captivity in US prison.

Puerto Ricans who resist, or retaliate for, these atrocities, do so out of principled concern for their people and in defense of their land. Those who strike out in defense of their nation are not terrorists, but freedom fighters. The eleven Puerto Ricans arrested in Evanston do not declare P.O.W. status as a legal defense trick, but in compliance with the dictates of international law. The UN recognizes the colonial relationship of Puerto Rico to the US, and defines colonialism as a crime. UN resolutions further affirm the 'inherent right of colonial people to struggle by all means at their disposal against colonial powers which suppress their aspirations for freedom and independence.' So the Eleven have international law and justice on their side when they refuse to abide by the juris-

diction of US courts. As freedom fighters they can never receive a free or fair trial in the colonizer's courts.

In this context of the history and the current relationship between the US and Puerto Rico, both the purpose of the FALN and the reasons for the treatment of the eleven incarcerated POWs can be understood. The Eleven are courageous freedom fighters who have put their lives in jeopardy for their land and people. They must be supported on that basis. Because colonialism in Puerto Rico is a national and international issue, so too is the case of the POW's.

Support for the Eleven is widespread in the Puerto Rican community. When FBI agents tried to get shopkeepers in Chicago to post pictures of supposed FALN fugitives in their stores, they were thrown out everywhere in the Puerto Rican community. The FBI is trying to deal with this support through convening new grand juries with the power to jail anyone who refuses to collaborate.

But similar support must also be built among white people. The state wants to mobilize people for its attacks on the independence movement. The initial arrests in Evanston came about when a white housewife called the police to say she had seen some 'suspicious' Latinos. Now the Evanston police have received a \$150,000 grant from the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to step such efforts to get white neighborhoods to collaborate in 'crime prevention' and the consolidation of a police state. Similarly, the campaign being whipped up against POW Haydee Torres and the rest of the Eleven is aimed at getting people to support the use of the death penalty a weapon against the independence movement. This is a crucial time to build support for the Eleven prisoners of war and for their just cause of independence and socialism for Puerto Rico.



# Interview with National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War



HOW HAS THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY RESPONDED TO THE ARRESTS OF THE ELEVEN?

A: There has been a tremendous show of support for the Eleven freedom fighters who were recently captured in Evanston. We know of numerous conversations that have taken place in different factories in support of the Eleven. Our committee has gone house-to-house and distributed 10's of thousands of leaflets explaining the case of Puerto Rico and the Eleven, and in all instances, people have responded positively. I think the statement which best exemplifies this support, actually came from the head of the FBI here in Chicago, James Ingram, who has stated to the press nationally that they (the FBI) "are astonished and surprised by the amount of support and protection that the FALN enjoys in the Puerto Rican community both in Chicago and in New York."

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PRISONER OF WAR STANCE OF THE ELEVEN TO THE FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE?

A: The case of the Eleven is intrinsically tied to the case of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico was invaded and conquered by the U.S. military on

July 25, 1898. The U.S. and its military have since employed a policy of genocide against our people--including but hardly limited to the mass arrest and assassination of our people, such as at the Ponce massacre; the sterilization of over 40% of our women of child-bearing age; forcing nearly 70% of our people to live on U.S. foodstamps; keeping 40% unemployed (95% in the rural areas); and forcing nearly half our population into the urban slums of this country, a situation which in no way alters or remedies our colonial situation.

The case of Puerto Rico already has been heard by the international community, and the United Nations have condemned U.S. colonial domination over Puerto Rico.

The case of the Prisoners of War falls under this condemnation of colonialism. In 1978, the General Assembly voted that it:

"Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggles of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and foreign occupation by all available means, particularly armed struggle;"

and that it:

"Demands the immediate release of all persons detained or imprison-



ed as a result of their struggle for self-determination and independence... (Resolution 33/29, 12/8/78)."

Previously, in 1970, the General Assembly directed that:

"All freedom fighters under detention shall be treated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949. " (Res. 2621, 10.70).

In the light of these facts, the Eleven as fighters against colonialism in Puerto Rico, are Prisoners of War, recognized by the highest international body, the UN.

WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE F.B.I. NOW? What WHAT DO YOU THINK ITS STRATEGY IS?

A: The position of the FBI now is what it has always been, the total liquidation of the armed clandestine movement in all its forms and manifestations, including the popular support it receives. It attempts this through harrassment, through the use of grand juries, and by other means. To state what its strategy is, would be to engage in speculation. Whatever it may be, it will be centered and prioritized around the liquidation of the independence movement as a whole, and it will continue to be met with the resistance of the Puerto Rican people and supporters of independence.

HOW HAVE THE ELEVEN COMPANEROS AND COMPANERAS BEEN TREATED IN JAIL?

A: Generally speaking, they have been treated even more harshly than other prisoners. They are denied the basic rights of prisoners, such as the right to visits (the government wants to fingerprint and photograph anyone who would visit them); or the right to medical care. They have been totally secluded one from the other and from the general prison population. They are being physically forced to appear in court against their will, when any prisoner is supposed to be able to waive a court appearance; in-

stead the state has said it wants to bind and gag them. With these actions, the government itself is acknowledging that they are prisoners of war and not common criminals.

WHAT CAN PEOPLE DO TO SUPPORT THE ELEVEN AND THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT?

A: Basically you should communicate with and participate in either the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War or the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence. You can read and distribute our literature and educate yourself on the case of Puerto Rico and the Eleven P.O.W.'s. People can come to the activities and demonstrations sponsored by the committee-- the next will be happening nationally on May 19th, followed by a national tour by Puerto Rican national heroine Lolita Lebron in support of the Eleven comrades. Become as involved as you can in the campaign to free them, and contribute financially to the committee. Monetary needs are very large, for the organizing, research, and also to support the commissary needs of the prisoners, who have been denied clothing, glasses, and other basics.

The other group working around the case of the Eleven is the Civic and Religious Committee, of clergy and concerned citizens in the Chicago area. This group has had a press conference locally and supports the petition to the UN on behalf of the POWs. They can be contacted at the Community Renewal Society, 111 So Wabash, Chicago. The National Comm. address is Box 301, 2520 N. Lincoln Av. Chicago 60614.

#### CO-WORKERS SUPPORT FREEDOM FIGHTER

This letter was printed in the Chicago Tribune.

#### *Colleague defended*

CHICAGO—We, faculty at Central YMCA Community College who have worked closely with Carmen Valentin for many years, wish to express our sense of outrage at the article entitled "Ex-Chicago teacher called 'god-mother' of FAUN here." The term "god-mother" was chosen because it suggests Mafia-type violence.

Ms. Valentin has proved by her compassionate caring for all CYCC students [black, Greek, Cypriot, Iranian, Arab, white, African, and Spanish—not just "Latins and Iranians"] that she is a thoughtful, kind woman. She is our co-worker and she earned the respect of those who were privileged to work with her. We miss her and hope that she will soon be back with us. Ms. Valentin is a patriot and has never concealed her concern about conditions in Puerto Rico and the condition of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. continued on pg. 14



# Statements and Poems from the 11

The true and biggest terrorist in all human history are the Yanki imperialists. The ruling class of this country with all of its repressive apparatus, the state, are and have been the worst terrorists that humanity has produced, surpassing by a wide margin Hitler's Nazi Germany. Look at Vietnam, where they dropped more bombs than in all of World War II, in order to demonstrate that pushing one button can destroy everything.

They have called us terrorists. This doesn't seem strange to us, because ever since it became conscious in class societies, the ruling class has called the oppressed and exploited who struggle against them: subversives, terrorists, criminals, etc. From Spartacus, Jesus Christ, Barrabas, the American Indians and Black slaves, the revolutionaries of Lares and the so-called Seditious groups of '98 in Puerto Rico, Bolivar, the revolutionary bourgeoisie in France, the Communards of Paris, Marx, Lenin, the Bolsheviks, to Albizu, and the new liberation movement in Puerto Rico, (and we could continue naming them until we filled books) all have been classified as subversive terrorists.

But one thing is clear--terror exists and has not been created by the revolutionaries, nor the oppressed classes or nations, but rather by the violence of the oppressing classes and nations and their apparatus of organized violence, the state.

And in the same form that the violence of the state exists, exists the violence which is opposed to it, revolutionary violence in its different forms.

Violence is expressed not only physically, but also in more sophisticated and non-physical forms. The poverty which exists among the masses is violence. Ignorance created and maintained within the most mistreated sectors of society is violence. It is violence to reduce the human condition to that of an animal or a vegetable--the Jails and the courts, the absence or deterioration of essential services; in general, violence is the violation of the right of human beings to live a decent life and to develop themselves in all possible areas.

In our society violence exists as a condition to maintain the security of the power of the ruling class, the capitalist imperialists and all their lackeys.

It is thus that the Rockefellers, without even having killed a cockroach with their own hands, have been the causes of the genocide of peoples and the blood spilled by the best of our Latin America.

And then they label as terrorists the revolutionary nationalist patriots who were massacred in Ponce in 1937 by orders of the U.S. government. Terrified by the revolutionary violence of the people, they brand us terrorists to save their own perfumed skins.

## Décima de Chicago

How beautiful is a dove  
singing in my homeland  
More beautiful is an Indian woman  
Singing there in the hills.  
Happy is one who looks  
and sees a child laughing.  
But more lovely is it to feel  
and to see a companera  
Becoming a banner  
of struggle and our future.

## Décima Popular Puertorriqueña

How sad is dove  
Singing at dawn  
Sadder is the woman  
Walking alone at night,  
Sad as one who loves  
and is given a one-year term  
that turns against him  
and they cannot fulfill it.  
But the saddest is to suffer  
the pangs of disenchantment.



# DESDE LAS REJAS

Comrades--

Greetings and a strong revolutionary embrace to all of you who also struggle for independence and socialism. From behind bars, we can assure you that all of us remain strong and sure in our revolutionary convictions and principles. Despite our incarceration, the process of struggle for our independence will continue. Since our capture, we have taken the position that we are Puerto Rican prisoners of war and we refuse to recognize the jurisdiction of the North American courts of the Yanki empire.

We affirm that Puerto Rico is a nation intervened by yanki military aggression since July 25, 1898. We recognize that Puerto Rico has been at war with the United States since that time. We have lost many combatants in our prolonged struggle for national liberation. The first revolutionary insurrection happened in Lares in 1868, and has continued with the Ponce massacre of 1937, the Jayuya Insurrection of 1950, the 1950 attack on Blair House, and on the U.S.

## REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS TO OUR COMRADES (FROM THE FIVE COMPANERAS)

Greetings, greetings, we will salute  
Greetings, greetings, we will salute  
The companeros who know how to fight  
The companeros who know how to fight

...

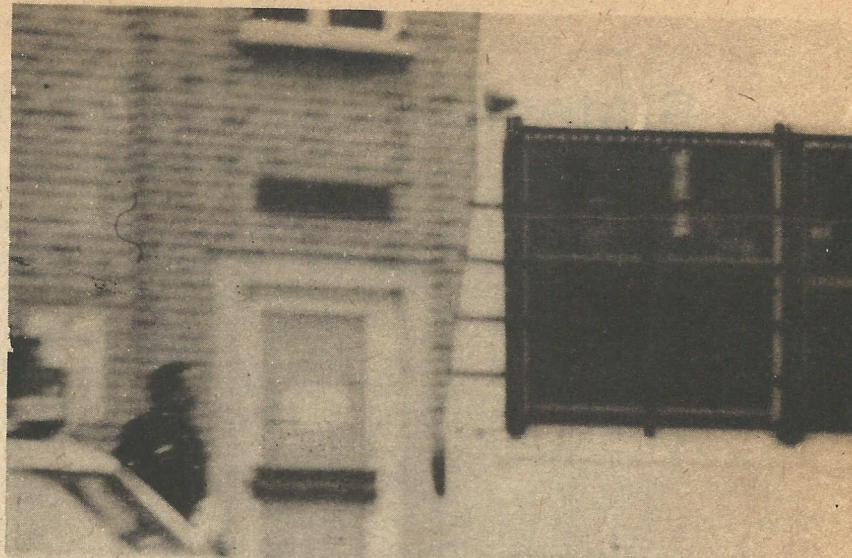
The compatriots who love liberty  
The compatriots who love liberty

...

Our victory that soon will come  
Our victory that soon will come

...

A las Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion  
Nacional  
The Armed Forces of National Liberation.



Congress in 1954 by our nationalist heroes, the clandestine attacks since the '60's by MIRA and CAL; in the '70's there has developed a clandestine movement of war that has demonstrated a high level of courage and sophistication. The most active of these organizations have been the FALN in the U.S., and in Puerto Rico the FARP, the CRP, the OVRP, the Macheteros, and Comandos Obreros. All of these military acts have been answered by a continuous campaign of repression by the North American imperialist government against the Puerto Rican people, which supports independence. The most recent example is the assassination in the federal prison at Tallahassee, Florida of Comrade Angel

Once captured we were taken to a police precinct in Evanston. The women were held in one area and the men in another. This did not keep us from communicating with each other. We could hear the chanting of our comrades outside; it served as an inspiration. At no time did we let up our chanting and defiance. Utilizing the number given to us, we called out our numbers and kept abreast of the conditions on both tiers. This song above was written by us, the companeras for our six companeros who could hear us but not see us. While being transported to the Cook County Correctional Institution, we were able to collectively sing and embrace each other with revolutionary love and respect.



# FROM BEHIND BARS

Since the beginning of our capture, we have refused to give our names, as a form of resistance and to maintain anonymity of our comrades. Now we believe the motive for our taking the position of anonymity has served its purpose and we will use our own names.

As captured revolutionaries we see that the best way to fight the enemy now is with our declaration as Prisoners of War. It is our right to not recognize the Yanki government and to refuse to go voluntarily to the illegal proceedings of the Yanki courts.

We want our people to know that we are very proud to be representatives of a revolutionary process in our triumphant liberation struggle and that we are the representatives of Puerto Rican consciousness in arms in the U.S. Our victory will come with the support and the determination of our people in this struggle for independence and socialism for Puerto Rico.

## From Students at Rafael Cancel Miranda High School

### To Our Brave Warriors

You all are the hydra to the revolution  
to the salvation of our nation  
against exploitation and oppression  
You have planted the seed that will grow  
into a tree and they'll see that we'll be free  
from the enemy  
You give recognition to our nation  
our existence will not die but grow  
in their very eyes  
We as a people  
You as the heroes  
we'll keep our resistance  
stronger in existence  
as you can see, we're still not free  
but they'll surely see, when we hit the  
enemy with the strike of anger  
like the sound of thunder  
for we don't live in fright  
for we live for our rights  
Our existence will not die  
but survive

Rodriguez Cristobal, a prisoner of war arrested during a demonstration in Vieques, Puerto Rico as a colony of the U.S., since September 12, 1978.

As combatants captured on the front lines of the struggle for the independence of our homeland, we the 11 declare ourselves Puerto Rican POW's, and we demand to be held in a military encampment until we can be transferred to a nation where our case can be heard before a jury of our peers in relation to our beliefs or be given our unconditional freedom in accordance with the regulations of the Geneva Convention of 1948, the treatment specified for Prisoners of War. As part of our position we have refused to collaborate with the enemy.

For the Children of the Imprisoned  
Parents and all Puerto Rican Children:  
Listen Borinqueno child,  
the soul of our country,  
In you we see the future  
of our struggle for independence.  
Our homeland is courage and sacrifice,  
as Dr. Albizu taught us.  
Walk with your heads held high,  
because your parents are freedom fighters.  
From these cold bars,  
we are strengthened,  
knowing no empire can take away  
our children's love,  
the children who love liberty.

Listen Borinqueno child,  
the moment for struggle has come,  
with pride and determination  
take a gun in one hand  
and raise the other high,  
To let the world know  
that our victory must arrive.



# 11 POWs Take Decisive Stance

The 11 Puerto Ricans arrested last April 4 in Evanston have declared themselves to be Prisoners of War. Their united stance flies in the face of the US strategy of statehood and annexation of Puerto Rico. It questions the legitimacy of the US presence in Puerto Rico in the most fundamental way possible. Their demand to be tried before an international tribunal reaffirms the right of all freedom fighters not to be tried in enemy courts.

The impact of this stance undercuts the US strategy to portray the 11 as common criminals, or fanatics. It also focuses international attention on the colonial situation of Puerto Rico at a time when the US is desperately trying to set the stage for the annexation of Puerto Rico. The holding of the first US presidential primaries in Puerto Rico this March was evidence of this. The US was only able to succeed in getting the thousands of Cuban gusanos and employees of the colonial government to vote. The rest of the nation saw the electoral farce for what it was--an attempt to move Puerto Rico one step closer to annexation--and refused to vote.

However, the US has not abandoned its plans to turn Puerto Rico into the 51st State. The primaries were only part of the plan. Now, through the actions of the freedom fighters here in Chicago, the issue has been changed--their stance changes the forces from the issue of statehood to the issue of Puerto Rico as a colony engaged in a liberation struggle. Although the US authorities don't recognize the 11 as Prisoners of War, in the courts their treatment of the prisoners shows that they are fully aware that the prisoners are indeed captured combatants. Every time US authorities don't recognize the 11 as POWs, every time they bar supporters from the courtroom and turn their jails into armed camps with sharpshooters on the rooftops, the US authorities are revealing to the world that they recog-

nize the existence of the war between the US and Puerto Rico.

Their war began in 1898 when the US invaded Puerto Rico. Since that time Puerto Ricans have engaged in armed struggle against the US colonizer.

Anti-colonial struggles such as Puerto Rico's have a historical precedence in international law. The Geneva convention of 1949 set forth specific provisions for the treatment of Prisoners of War captured in anti-colonial struggles. The US has continually tried to cover up Puerto Rico's colonial relationship to the US in order to avoid the international recognition of the independence struggle. The "Commonwealth" status, forced on Puerto Rico in 1951, was a part of the attempt to disguise the colonial status. Through a close vote in the United Nations, the US forced the UN to remove Puerto Rico from its list of colonies, although the only thing that had changed was the name of the relationship.

However, in 1950 and 1954, the five Puerto Rican Nationalists, in separate attacks on President Truman's residence and on the US Congress, brought the war for independence to the US and effectively stopped the US from selling its "Commonwealth" concept to the world.

The 11 have done the same basic thing. Their actions, their stance as POWs, their demands of No to statehood, US Navy out of Vieques, and Free Puerto Rico have shifted the focus from the criminal level to the arena of internationally recognized anti-colonial struggle.

The World Court and United Nations recognize the human right of nations and peoples to sovereignty and independence by any means necessary. In 1970, the Decolonization Committee of the UN passed resolution 2621, which reaffirmed "the inherent right of colonial peoples to struggle by all means at their disposal against colonial powers which suppress their aspiration





for freedom and independence." The Decolonization Committee also declared in the same resolution that colonialism in all its forms and manifestations was a crime.

The protections set forth in the UN were expanded in a resolution passed by the UN Committee on Decolonization in 1978. The Decolonization Committee recognized the colonial status of Puerto Rico, and recommended a process for the decolonization of that nation.

Since Puerto Ricans began fighting to get the US out of Puerto Rico, the issue of the US illegal presence in Puerto Rico has been raised in the courts by Puerto Rican POWs. In 1935 Albizu Campos, leader of the Nationalist Party in Puerto Rico, in the case of Luiz Velasquez vs. the People of Puerto Rico, challenged the legality of the Treaty of Paris of 1898. The Treaty of Paris, at the end of the US war with Spain, transferred control of Puerto Rico from Spain to the US, voiding all sovereign rights of the Puerto Rican nation recognized by international law.

The Nationalist Prisoners of War, held for over 25 years in US jails, declared themselves to be POWs in July 1978, and brought their claim of human rights violations and for repatriation as Prisoners of War to the

UN Commission on Human Rights. Their case and that of the 11 will soon be heard before the United Nations.

Puerto Rican POWs the US has taken include the 5 Nationalists, Angel Rodriguez Cristobal, William Morales, and the 11. These Prisoners of War recognize the US as the colonizer in Puerto Rico, and all exercised their human right to fight for the sovereignty of their nation.

This human right is protected by the Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the treatment of POWs. In 1977 an amendment to these accords expanded the resolution to protect all those fighting against colonialism and foreign domination and conferred POW status on anti-colonial freedom fighters. Article 1 states:

"The situations referred to in the preceding paragraph include armed conflicts in which people are fighting against colonial domination and alien occupation and against racist regimes, in the exercise of their right of self-determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the declarations of principles and international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among states in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."

The Geneva Convention of 1949 extended protection to wars of national



liberation, and provided sanctions of international law to POWs and defended the human right of independence.

At the 1974 session of the diplomatic conference, Cuba's delegation voted in favor of this article "on the understanding that the text was interpreted as referring not only to the national liberation movements present at the conference and those recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, but also others such as the Puerto Rican liberation group."

Article 43 of the Geneva Convention of 1949 provides that the armed forces of a party in a conflict consist of:

All organized armed forces, groups and units which are under command responsible to the party, even if that party is represented by a government or authority not recognized by an adverse party." In the case of the ll, the FALN and the US, the US has refused to accept their status as captured combatants, although it is evident in every respect. Their level of discipline, organization, and principles supports the definition of organized armed forces, which are responsible to the Puerto Rican independence movement.

Article 44 recognized that "owing to the nature of the hostilities, an armed combatant cannot always distinguish himself from the civilian population." This provision undercuts the position of the authorities that because they were not dressed in uniforms, they cannot be considered soldiers.

These amendments to the Geneva Convention protect national liberation fighters and move their treatment from criminal to international law.

UN General Assembly Resolution 1514 of the UN, passed in 1960, provided that "All freedom fighters under detention shall be treated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of POWs."

In determining whether a combatant is a POW, article 45 provides that "a combatant shall be entitled to that status until such time as his status has been determined by a military tribunal." Article 45 also states that "if a prisoner is held not to be a POW

and is not to be tried for an offense arising out of hostilities, he shall have the right to assert his entitlement to POW status before a judicial tribunal." None of these provisions have been granted to the ll.

Article 45 also provides that even if a combatant is determined not to be a POW he shall still have the right to the protections of Art. 75, which include the right to a fair and impartial trial.

In demanding that their case be brought before an international tribunal and that the US courts have no jurisdiction over them, the ll POWs are upholding their rights as captured combatants behind enemy lines. These laws have been recognized worldwide in such struggles as Ireland, Algeria, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, etc. In defending the human right of a nation to sovereignty and independence, the ll POWs place themselves and the case of Puerto Rico in the arena of international law and recognition. In doing this they halt the US plan and force it to deal with them on this issue. In binding and gagging the prisoners, or in barring their supporters from the courtroom, the US is reacting to the POW stand of the ll. This undercuts the ability of the US to maintain the legitimacy and credibility of its human rights, statehood policies in Puerto Rico. The US is exposed in its open denial of their human rights to people who are recognized by all sectors to be supporters of Puerto Rican independence. It also speaks to the effectiveness of the FALN in advancing the Puerto Rican independence movement; that is, the US is forced into this exposed position. The issue is no longer statehood or not--it is how the US will deal with the growing people's war for the independence of Puerto Rico being waged here and on the island.

cont. from pg. 6

The article indicates that wherever Ms. Valentin went, there was "student unrest" and "bloody riots." According to this line of thinking any teacher who works with minority people could be associated with "bloody riots." Sooner or later oppressed people will rebel. This rebellion is caused by conditions and not by sinister "god-mothers."

Joan Nicklin  
and 24 others



# The US Must Not Be Allowed To Kill Haydee Beltran Torres

The US government is seeking to try Haydee Beltran de Torres, one of the Eleven Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, on charges for which it could impose the death penalty. To use her as an example to try to intimidate the prisoners, the government sent her to New York, where she faces murder charges and other federal and state indictments concerning the bombing of Mobil Oil headquarters by the FALN. The state has no real information or evidence, except for an alleged fingerprint on a job application filed in the building on the same day as the bombing. But the US is prepared to try and potentially to execute Haydee in an effort to reverse the forward motion of the revolutionary Puerto Rican independence struggle.

Although she is only five feet tall and barely 90 pounds, Haydee was the commanding presence in the courtroom in Chicago when she was being extradited. She took the initiative away from the judge and prosecutor, proclaiming her stance as a prisoner of war and denouncing the illegality of US colonial tribunals. But her physical slightness serves to emphasize the naked brutality of the state's intention to try and convict her on charges that would authorize the state to kill her.

As FBI agents and federal marshals dragged her from the courtroom, Haydee shouted at the judge; "You won't kill me the way you did Angel Rodriguez Cristobal." Angel, a leader of the Liga Socialista Puertorriqueña and a Vieques resister who took a position as a prisoner of war -- a decisive stand which he was the first to take in Puerto Rico -- was hanged to death in solitary confinement in Federal prison in Tallahassee, FL. He had been exiled there for his involvement in a protest of the genocidal US Na-

vy presence in Vieques. He denounced the illegality of US courts in Puerto Rico, as a part of the same colonial apparatus as the military occupation of the Navy.

Angel was murdered by the U.S., and Haydee is possibly facing death, because of the threat they represent to US plans for Puerto Rico. Like the current POW's, Angel was a model of intransigencia, the absolute refusal to recognize the colonial institutions and jurisdiction of the US over Puerto Rico. This is the same intransigence shown by the Five Nationalists through-out over 25 years in prison. They refused to accept parole or any conditions on their release which would recognize US authority over them or their nation. This stance, reflected in such actions as mass refusal to be inducted into US armed forces, has been the Puerto Rican people's historic defense of their sovereignty.

Angel knew that the strategy of protracted people's war is the only road to Puerto Rican national salvation and liberation. The Eleven Puerto Rican POW's today represent these same politics, the same refusal to be intimidated by or to compromise with, the forces of US colonialism. They represent the same threat to US control over oppressed people. The CIA murder of Angel -- covered up as a suicide -- only served to further fuel the resistance of the Puerto Rican people. So the US now wants to make a clear example, with Haydee, of its open willingness to kill Puerto Rican freedom fighters. If the US imposes a sentence of death on Haydee as the ultimate expression of its life-or-death colonial authority over Puerto Ricans, it will be trying to terrorize the Puerto Rican people and reverse their advances on the road to independence at a moment when the US is trying to cement its



control by absorbing Puerto Rico as a state.

The POW stance represents a threat to US imperialism because it is a revolutionary refusal to make any accommodations to colonialism. The US wants to stifle the independence struggle within the dead-end approaches or arenas that it holds out in the courts and elections. It uses terror, assassination and repression to contain the movement, and to smash any effective resistance to its plans to incorporate Puerto Rico into the US. At this critical time, it is the existence of an armed clandestine capability, and of people prepared to face any consequence in their principled defense of Puerto Rico's sovereignty in international law, that defends the very survival of the Puerto Rican nation.

The state has always turned to murder to hold back the just struggle of the Puerto Rican people, not only through overt military action, but through the selective killing of Puerto Rican freedom fighters. Against the background of this history, the case of Haydee and the Eleven is especially critical today.

In the 1930's, Elias Beauchamp and Hiram Rosado were shot to death in a police station after they executed US Army Col. Riggs for his crimes against Puerto Rican as the US counterinsurgency expert who headed the Puerto Rican police. Albizu Campos, head of the Nationalist Party, was subjected to chemical and radiation treatments during long periods in US prisons, which eventually caused his death in 1965. Oscar Collazo was sentenced to death for attacking Harry Truman in 1950 during the Jayuya Insurrection; his compatriot, Griselio Torresola, was killed during the attack. His compañero Andrés Figueroa Cordero died of cancer contracted while in prison and untreated or mistreated for 10 years.

As the clandestine forces of Puerto Rican independence grow in this current period, and -- with

the support of the Puerto Rican people -- elude capture as they carry out their anti-colonial operations, the US has stepped up its murderous attacks on independentistas. In relation to the Comando Obrero execution of CIA agent Alan Randall, labor leader Juan Rafael Caballero was kidnapped, tortured, and killed by a CIA-trained "Death Squad" within the colonial police. Such actions failed to hold back the dynamic of struggle; the Puerto Rican people continued to protect their clandestine freedom fighters. So the colonial police under the leadership of the FBI and with the direct authorization of colonial governor Romero Barcelo, ambushed and murdered two young independentistas on the anniversary of the US invasion in 1978. Carlos Soto and Arnaldo Rosado were blatantly set up for summary execution by a police informer and agent provocateur. But neither any of these murders nor the subsequent assassination of Angel achieved the state's purpose of cowering the Puerto Rican people. In response to the murders the struggle in Vieques and across the island intensified, and clandestine organizations initiated offensive actions against the US military. In this same period, the FALN began carrying out joint actions with forces in Puerto Rico.

So now in the case of Haydee and the other ten POW's, the state wants the option to carry out the death penalty in the most up-front way, to revenge itself on Puerto Rican freedom fighters, and to make its willingness to murder such fighters absolutely clear.

The release of the Nationalists, the defiance of the grand jury resisters, the escape of William Morales showed that US prisons cannot cow or even hold independence fighters. With the murder of Angel, the state showed its intent to turn the prison camps into death camps. Now with the threat to Haydee, it is attempting to show its hand openly.



Whatever the formal charges and despite the lack of evidence, Haydee is being tried for Fraunces Tavern, through association. This was the first FALN action which took lives in this country, in retaliation for the CIA murders of three Puerto Rican youths in a terrorist bombing of an independentista club in Puerto Rico. The state and the media want to create a lynch law type of racist hysteria, to win broad support particularly among white people for the use of the death penalty as a highly political weapon against Puerto Rican freedom fighters. So white people have a special responsibility to prevent the state from carrying out its

murderous plans, and to expose the lies and slander being directed at the Eleven, by supporting Haydee and the others as Prisoners of War. They are freedom fighters who should not be subject to the jurisdiction of the US courts. The 19th of May, when Haydee's trial opens and the Chicago trials resume, is the date of a national mobilization, with demonstrations in 15 cities, as well as in Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico. On that day, papers will be filed with the UN upholding their POW status.

For information on mobilizations in your area, contact:

Comite Pro Orientacion  
Comunal  
2403 West North Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60647

Comite de California  
2632 68th Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94605

Comite de California  
P.O. Box 74482  
Los Angeles, CA 90004

Comite de Missouri  
713 E. 43rd Street  
Kansas City, MO

Comite de Colorado  
P.O. Box 4543  
Denver, CO

Comite de Texas  
1415 Wyoming Avenue  
El Paso, TX 79902

P.O. Box 1198  
San Juan, TX 78589

Comite de Oregon  
729 S.E. 33rd  
Portland, OR

Comite de California  
1005 Market St. No. 207  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Comite de Nuevo Mexico  
P.O. Box 134  
Tierra Amarilla, NM

Comite de New York  
P.O. Box 83  
161 E. Houston St.  
New York, NY 10002

Comite de Wisconsin  
805 S. 5th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

TO: NEW MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE  
Box 295, 2520 No. Lincoln Ave., Chicago IL 60614

- ( ) Enclosed is my contribution for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the Eleven.
- ( ) I would like to make a monthly pledge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the Puerto Rican independence movement.
- ( ) Please send me more information about the solidarity work.
- ( ) Please send me a copy of TOWARDS PEOPLE'S WAR, a collection of documents and communiques from clandestine and revolutionary public independence organizations. \$3.00 postpaid

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



## POEMS FROM THE PRISONERS OF WAR

### To Our Revolutionary Children

Children of our country,  
Children of armed struggle,  
always ready, always strong,  
soon your moment will come.

We strengthen you  
with the rifle's seed;  
We now anxiously await  
the fruits of victory.

We adore you  
identical with our homeland;  
at the same time we wait for you  
to bring us Liberty.

Tomorrow will be very late  
The people will not wait  
Arise Borinquenitos,  
we have given the sign.

Children of our homeland,  
Sons and daughters of liberty,  
Never suffer, always laughing,  
and fooling the bourgeoisie  
that cut short our joy.

### TO FUTURE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Rise and stand proud  
for it soon will be your time  
to aid in the struggle  
that will bring us our freedom!

We all have a responsibility  
to work towards this goal  
since it means  
Life or death for our people!

Strengthen yourselves  
and stand on sure ground  
and remember that it is in unity  
that we will achieve victory! =

Learn to question what is around you  
and never take things for granted,  
Otherwise,  
you will remain ignorant of the truth.

We all have something to contribute  
toward our liberation,  
open your hearts and minds  
and live as a true Borinqueno!

## LOLITA LEBRON:

## NATIONAL TOUR 1980

TO SUPPORT THE ELEVEN P.O.W.s



New York City - 19th of May  
Milwaukee Wisc. -- May 20  
Chicago IL --- May 21  
Los Angeles, CA --- May 23  
Portland OR --- May 25  
San Francisco CA --- May 28  
Denver CO --- May 30  
El Paso, TX --- June 1  
Ciudad Juarez, Mexico --  
June 2, 1980

NEW MOVEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH  
PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

- BULLETIN -

Box 295, 2520 North Lincoln Av  
Chicago, IL